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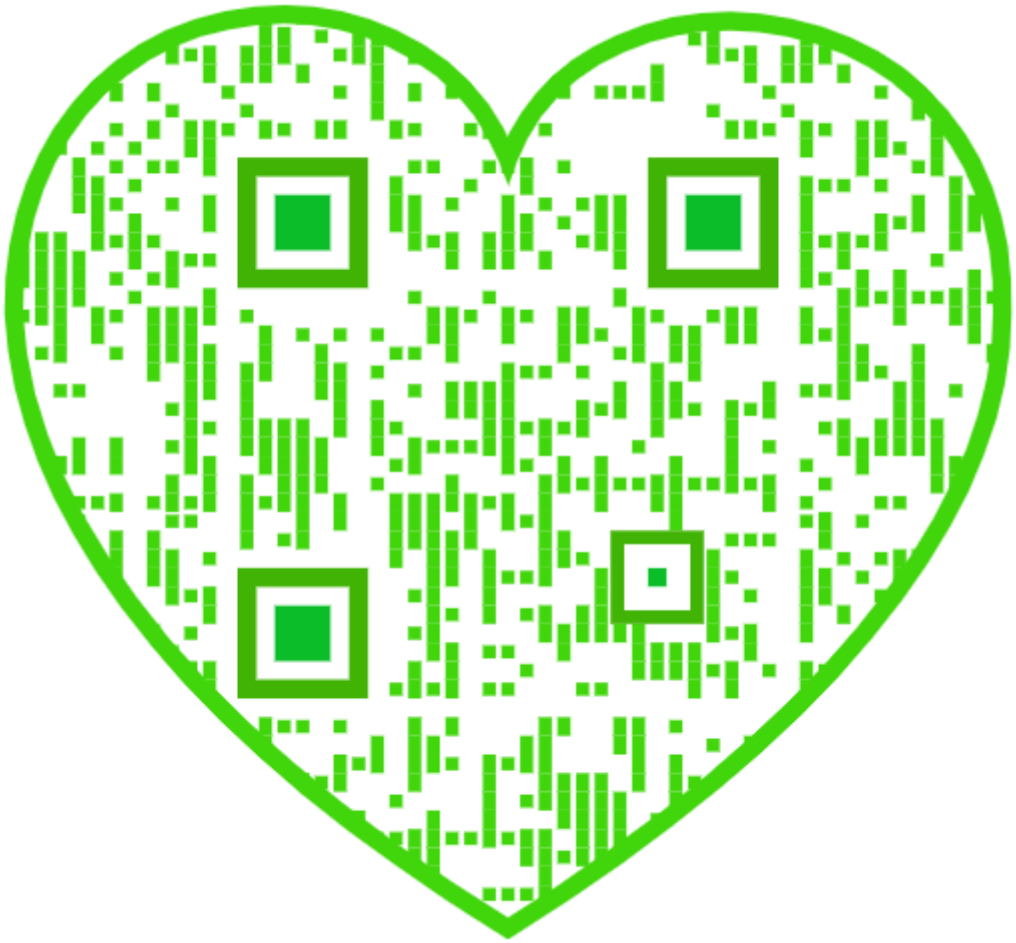

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FULL INSTRUCTIONS

in the art of

Crepe Paper Rope
Basket Weaving

Home Institute of Trades
Grand Rapids, Michigan

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Instruction
in
Basket Weaving

LESSON ONE

You are about to learn the very interesting Art of Basket Weaving using Crepe Paper Rope. After you have finished the lessons in this booklet, you will be able to make a variety of baskets of different shapes and designs, and of most attractive colors. Crepe Paper Rope is made in many beautiful colors, which is one of the reasons why it is so popular for Basket Weaving.

You will not only be able to make baskets and trays for your own use and as presents for your friends and relatives but Basket Weaving also offers you a splendid money making opportunity.

As you are well aware, the demand for attractively woven baskets is becoming greater each day. This is your opportunity, and we want you to take the fullest advantage of it.

For instance, the particular basket we teach you to make in these instructions can easily be sold at a retail price of $2.50. You can prove this to your own satisfaction by asking the price of similar baskets offered for sale in stores in any part of the United States.

The actual cost to you of the materials for making this particular basket amounts to less than 50 cents. This means a very good profit for you. This margin of profit is sufficiently large to enable you to employ agents to get orders for you. You can pay the agent a commission of 50c or even 75c on each order secured, and this will still leave you a handsome profit.

Our suggestion is that you take orders yourself for the various baskets and trays you make, and also that you employ agents to secure orders for you. Then, as your business grows, you can employ others to assist you in making baskets to fill the orders your agents secure for you. From time to time we will send you instructions and suggestions for building up your business, and will always be glad to give you the fullest co-operation.

These instructions cover fully and in detail the making of a medium size basket of simple but artistic shape as shown in Illustration No. 100. The lessons show you in minute detail every step in the making of this basket. Simply follow the instructions carefully and you will have complete success.

Illustration No. 100

After you have completed this one basket you will find it very easy to make others of different shapes and designs, as suggested by us from time to time. You will also be able to originate many attractive designs and shapes.

We furnish you with all the necessary equipment for completing this one basket in accordance with our instruction. This outfit includes all the necessary articles and materials with the exception of the shellac and brush, which you can secure at your local hardware store at very small cost. The outfit we send you contains the following:

2 Hanks of 1/8 inch Light Brown Crepe Paper Rope No. BRI.
12 Wires No. 78 for Foundation.
2 Wires No. 15 for handle.
1 Spool Covered Wire No. 2 for holding wires together when starting.
1 Fold Light Brown Crepe Paper No. 71 for winding wires to match rope.
1 Tube of Glue No. 2.
1 Tube of Paste No. 1.
1 Combination Wire Cutter and Pointed Plier.

After your basket is completed it is very desirable to give it a coat of shellac. You can purchase shellac in any hardware store. Merely state that you wish an extra heavy shellac for absorbent service. The shellac should be mixed with denatured alcohol, the proportion being one pound of shellac to one quart of denatured alcohol.

We suggest that you do this work over a table such as a kitchen table. Before starting to make the basket it is a good plan to read over all of the lessons carefully. You will be surprised at the ease and quickness with which you can make this first basket and how truly attractive your first effort will prove to be.

LESSON TWO

COVERING THE FOUNDATION WIRES

You will now first proceed to cover each of your 12 foundation wires with a strip of Light Brown Crepe Paper so that your wires will match your paper rope. Your foundation wires are 18 inches long and green. To obtain the strip of crepe paper simply take the fold of crepe paper in the folded form in which it reaches you, and cut off 3/4 of an inch at the end, through the entire thickness as shown in Illustration No. 101.

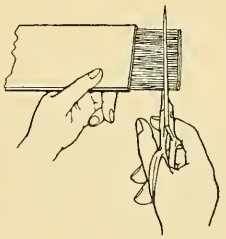


Illustration No. 101

The next step is to wrap this strip of Crepe Paper around the wires. Each of the 12 wires is to be wrapped with Crepe Paper in this manner. As you need strips of paper for this purpose to cover all the wires, simply continue to cut the 3/4 inch wide strips off the end of your Crepe Paper Fold.

Taking the first of your 12 wires you will now proceed as follows:- First, place the end of the wire precisely in the center or middle of the end of the strip of paper, having the end of the strip of paper extending about 1/2 inch beyond the end of the wire, as shown in Illustration No. 102.

Illustration No. 102.

Next take your tube of glue and apply the glue to the end of the strip of paper as shown in Illustration No. 102. Then proceed to fold this glued end of the paper over the end of the wire and twist it securely to the end of the wire with your fingers. Now, holding the wire in your right hand and the strip in your left hand, as shown in Illustration No. 103, proceed to wrap the paper round the wire. Turn the wire in one direction, with your right hand and, turning the top edge of the strip in, guide the paper around the wire its full length with your left hand. The paper should be wrapped on the wire reasonably close and it should be held taut while wrapping so that it will be wrapped on tightly. Note Illustration No. 104.

Illustration No. 103.

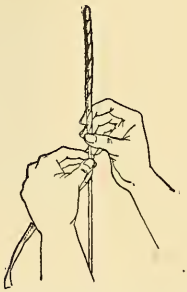


Illustration No. 104.

After you have wrapped on the paper to the other end of the wire, then sever the paper with the scissors about 1/2 inch beyond the end of the wire. Then apply glue to this end of the strip of paper and twist it tightly over the end of the wire. Cover each of the 12 wires in this manner with Crepe Paper.

LESSON THREE

ARRANGING THE WIRES FOR WEAVING

You will now take six of your 12 wires and lay these six wires on the table side by side close together with the ends absolutely even, as shown in Illustration No. 105. Proceed to find the exact middle of this group of wires. The middle will be nine inches from each end, the wires being eighteen incheslong. Run a pencil lightly over this middle point so that you will know exactly where it is. Note Illustration No. 105.

Illustration No. 105.

Now take the other six wires and, finding the exact middle point of these six wires, you lay them exactly crosswise over the first six wires so that the two groups will touch at this exact middle point. Notice Illustration No. 106.

Illustration No. 106.

Next proceed to fasten the two groups of wires together, using the spool wire for that purpose. Simply wind this spool wire around and about and over and under the wires a number of times as shown in Illustration No. 107. When these two groups of six wires each are properly fastened together at the middle by the spool wire they should appear as shown in Illustration No. 108. Please remember that your wires should all be perfectly flat, closely side by side, on the table. Your wires are now in four groups from the center, six wires being in each group.

Illustration No. 107

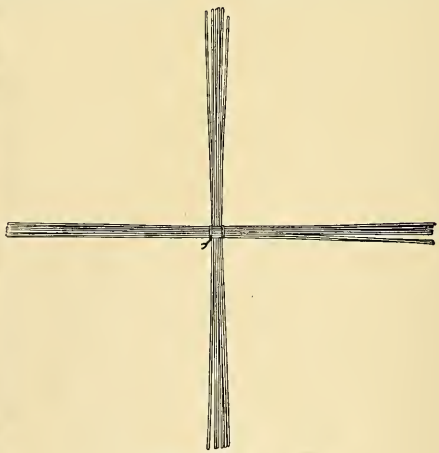


Illustration No. 108

The next step is to arrange your wires in groups of two from the center. Illustration No. 109 shows the arrangement of the wires in groups of two partially completed. Illustration No. 110 shows the entirely completed arrangement of these wires into groups of two. Your wires should be arranged all around with these groups of two equal distance apart. You now have 12 groups of two wires each.

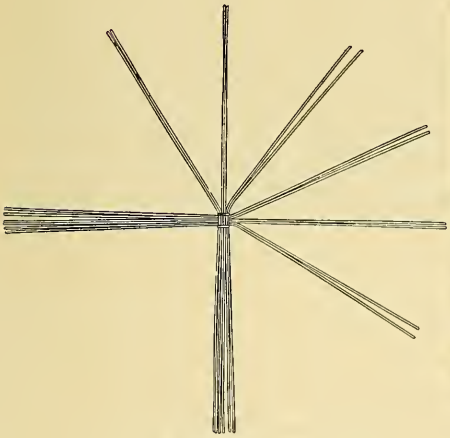


Illustration No. 109

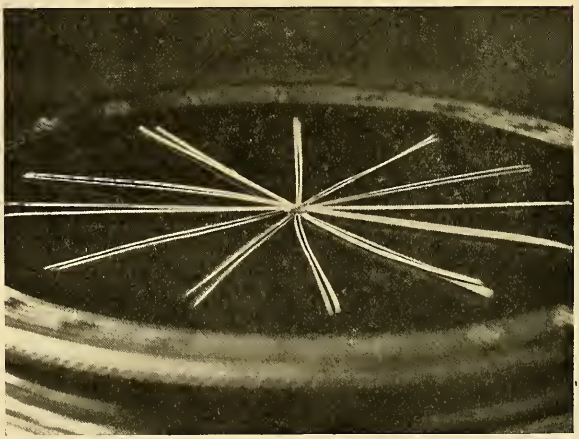


Illustration No. 110

LESSON FOUR

STARTING THE WEAVING

You will now take one, just one, of these groups of two, and separate the two wires, as shown in Illustration No. 111. You will start your weaving by placing the end of the rope between these two wires that you have just separated. Note Illustrations No. 111 and 112, either one of which well illustrates this simple operation. Have the short end of the rope sticking up about an inch or a little more above the wire. Now proceed to weave over two wires and under the next two wires, then over two, and then under two, around to the starting point. When you approach the starting point the rope must go under the first of the single wires and then over the next single wire. Then, this time around you go under the first two wires, over the next two and so on around to the single wires again.

Illustration No. 111

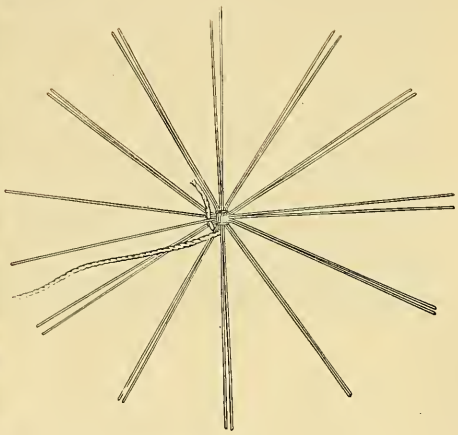


Illustration No. 112

You will notice that these single wires change the order of the stitch and thus produce the weave, by the simple process of first going over and then under the groups of two wires and then under and over.

Continue the weaving until you have encircled the wires six times, or in other words until you have made six rows entirely around the base you are forming.

You will now proceed to separate all the groups of two wires each into single wires, making twenty-four single wires out from the center, all as nearly equal distance apart as possible. Illustration No. 113 shows four of the groups separated into eight single wires and also shows the six rows you have woven. Separate all your groups of two into single wires as explained above and as shown completed in Illustration No. 114. Now proceed to continue weaving going under one wire and then over one and then under and then over entirely around once.

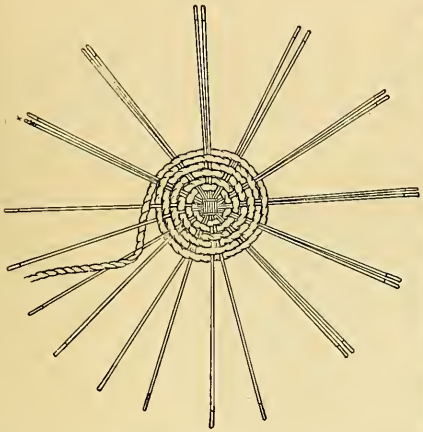


Illustration No. 113

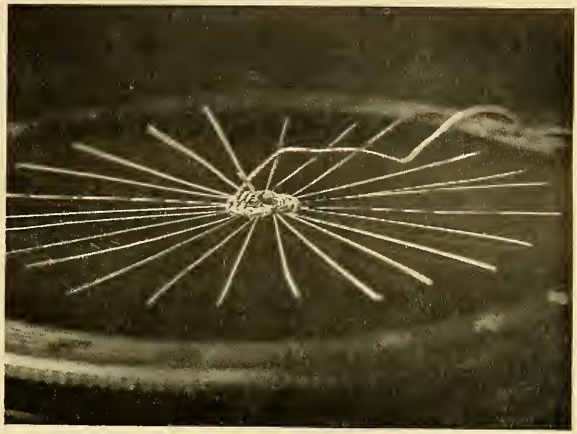


Illustration No. 114

When your starting point is reached after weaving around the single wires once, you will notice that if the weaving is continued the rope strand would now lie one above the other. Hence, when this occurs, the wire directly at the left of the one where the rope would cross twice, should be bent up and cut out. Bend this wire up right at the rope as shown in Illustration No. 115, and with your wire cutters, cut this wire off within about one quarter inch of the rope and then bend the stub end out of the way.

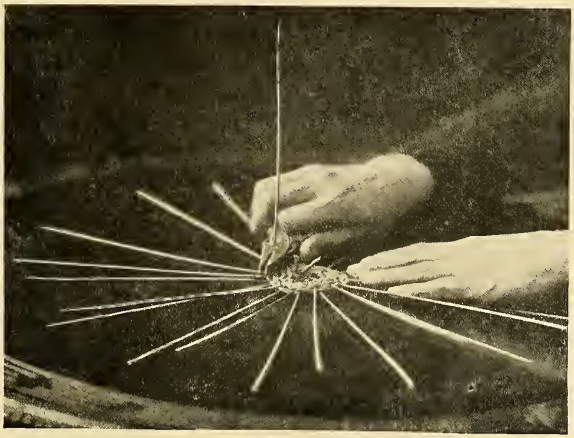


Illustration No. 115

You will now have twenty-three wires instead of twenty four. This gives you the necessary uneven number of wires which are used in all regular weaving. This uneven number now makes it possible for you to always cross your wires on the opposite side each time around. Proceed with your weaving around the wires over and under until the base is the desired size--four inches--the size shown in Illustration No. 116. Next cut out and pull out all of the winding spool wire in the center. Pick it all out with the pliers. Then glue the short rope end neatly into the weaving as shown in Illustration No. 116, so that your base will be smooth all over.

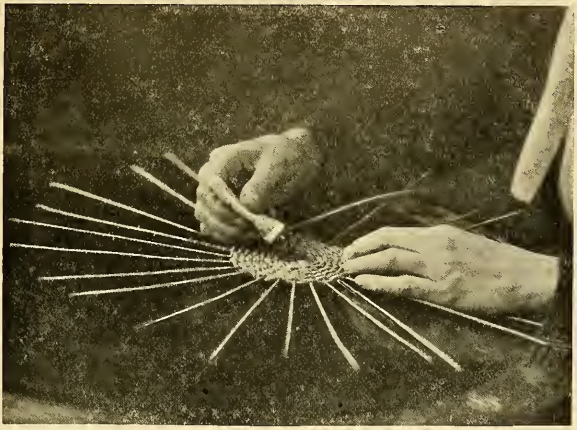


Illustration No. 116

LESSON FIVE
WEAVING THE SIDES

The next step is to bend the wires up sharp for the basket sides. See Illustration No. 117. This Illustration shows six of the wires bent up sharply. Proceed to bend all twenty-three of them up straight in this manner, as shown in Illustration No. 118.

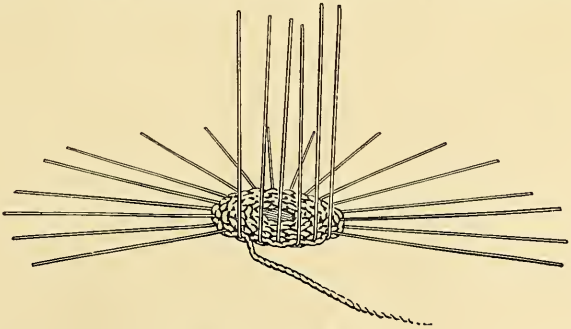
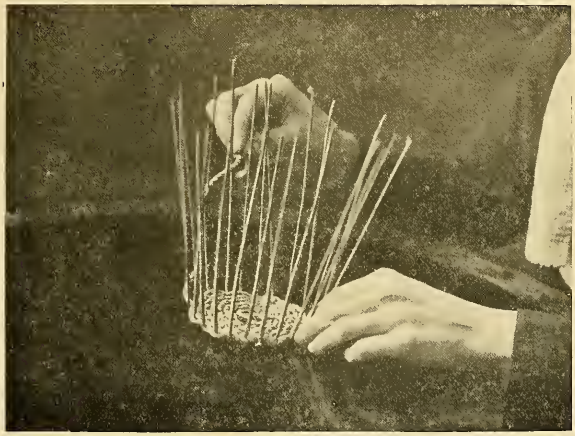


Illustration No. 117

Now again continue weaving, first inside one wire and then outside the next wire and so on all around. Note Illustration No. 118. Continue this weaving in this manner until the sides of your basket are six inches high. When six inches high it is ready to finish off around the edge.



Illustraton No. 118

While weaving keep the wires straight up and down so that the diameter is the same throughout. When you need more rope and start using your second hank, glue the ends of both pieces of rope neatly on the inside of your basket. We also wish to caution you not to push your weaving too closely together or the effect of the weave will be spoiled and more rope used. Also do not pull the rope too much while weaving as this will draw the wires out of shape.

Having woven the sides of the basket until it is six inches high you are now ready to finish off the edge.

LESSON SIX

MAKING THE BASKET EDGE

Now, take the rope strand that you are weaving with, and measure it once around and an additional one third around the top of the basket and cut it off. In other words cut your weaver off about twenty-two inches from the point at which you stopped weaving. Now from the rope which you have left from your second hank measure off three more strands of the same length, or about twenty-two inches. In other words from your remaining rope cut yourself off three more twenty-two inch strands.

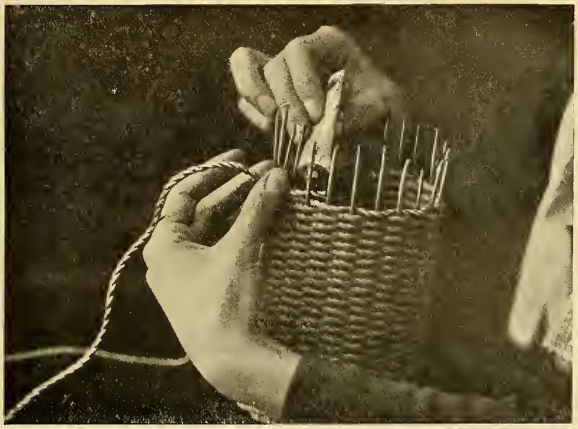


Illustration No. 119

Now take one of your three loose strands and applying glue to the end of it, glue it in the space with the weaver strand already in use, as shown in Illustration No. 119.

Now take the remaining two loose strands and applying glue to the ends, glue them in the next space to the right, as shown in Illustration No. 120. In other words you glue these last two loose strands in between the two wires to the right of the other two strands. You now have four weavers in all.

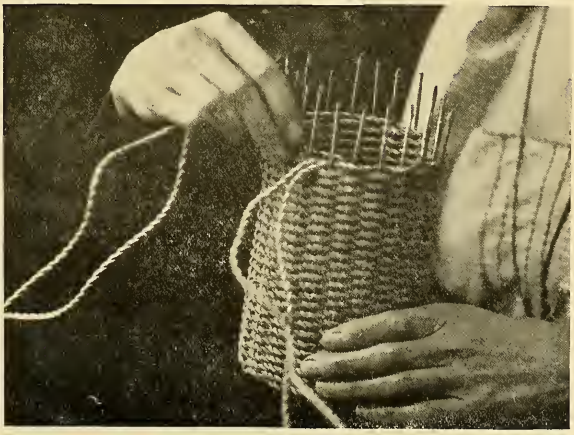


Illustration No. 120

Now clip the wire at the right of the two rear weavers, leaving about one inch standing above the weaving line. Now bend this wire over the rear weavers flat and tight within the basket and slightly in the direction of the weaving. Note Illustration No. 121.

Illustration No. 121

Now clip the next wire to the left the same length and bend it down over the forward weavers. Note Illustration No. 122 showing bending the wire over the two forward weavers.

Illustration No. 122

You can now proceed to cut off the ends of a few more of the wires around the top of the basket. Cut them off the same length as the wires referred to in Illustrations No. 121 and 122. If you like you can cut all the wires around the entire top of the basket at one time or you can cut them off as you proceed with the weaving. Illustration No. 123 shows the beginning of the cutting of the rest of the wires after the four weavers have been fastened into place.

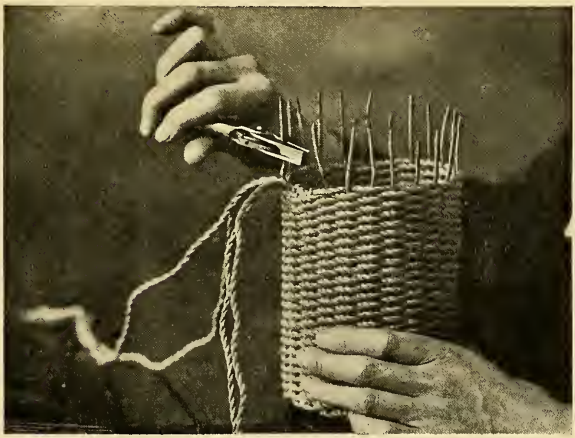


Illustration No. 123

LESSON SEVEN

WEAVING THE EDGE

You proceed now with the weaving, starting with the two rear weavers. Pass them over the second bent wire, covering it completely, and then pass them back of the next standing wire, as shown in Illustration No. 124. Now bend this wire inside the basket and over the weavers, as before. This bent wire holds those two weavers in position.

Illustration No. 124

Now take the other two weavers, pass them over this last bent wire, covering it, and then pass these two weavers back of the next standing wire. Bend this wire within the basket over the weavers. You proceed entirely around the top of the basket in this manner, first passing one pair of weavers back of a standing wire, bending the wire down, and then passing the other pair of weavers back of the next standing wire and so on around, alternating.

Now then, all of the bent wires will be covered with the rope except the last one and also the one which was first cut and bent. Now lift up the first wire which was cut, pass the weavers over the last bent wire and behind this lifted wire, as shown in Illustration No. 125, and rebend the wire. Now cut these two weavers off close.

Illustration No. 125

Now cover this final rebent wire with the two weavers which are left, as shown in Illustration No. 126. Proceed now to cut these two weavers off and glue the ends into the inside edge. This conceals the ends in the weaving.

Illustration No. 126

LESSON EIGHT

MAKING THE HANDLE

After you have made the handle of the basket and put it on, the basket will be entirely finished with the exception of applying the shellac. You use two heavy wires, No. 15, for the basket handle. First wrap each of these two wires SEVERAL TIMES with a strip of Crepe Paper 1 1/2 inches wide. You wrap these wires by the same method used in wrapping the Foundation Wires for your basket. Having wrapped each wire several times with the crepe paper strip of 1 1/2 inch width, you then wrap each wire with one strip of paper 3/4 inch wide to give a smooth finish.

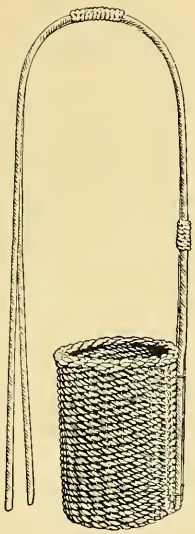


Illustration No. 127

Now bend the two wires together into the shape shown in Illustration No. 127. Then attach them to the Basket with spool wire as shown in Illustration No. 127. You will notice in this Illustration that one end of the handle is fastened to one side of the basket. This Illustration is sufficiently clear to show you at just what location you fasten the handle ends to the sides of the basket with spool wire. You will observe that the handle is fastened in two places on each side, one near the top of the basket and one near the bottom of the basket. Before fastening the handle to the basket with spool wire, see to it that your spool wire has first been wound with a very narrow strip of crepe paper, so that your spool wire will match your basket.

You will also observe that your two handle wires are held together and at the same time attractively trimmed by winding paper rope around them a short space on each side and also on the top, as shown in Illustration No. 100. This Illustration, which is the first one shown in this booklet, shows your completed basket. You can now apply the shellac over the entire basket, one or more coats, as desired.

LESSON NINE

MAKING BASE FOR SQUARE BASKETS

As previously instructed wrap the twelve foundation wires with a strip of crepe paper 3/4 inch wide. Then lay one group of wires across the other group, crossing them in the center, and fasten them together with spool wire, as you have been previously instructed. Note Illustration No. 128.

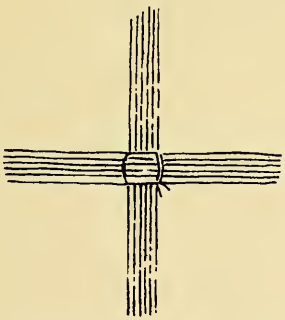


Illustration No. 128

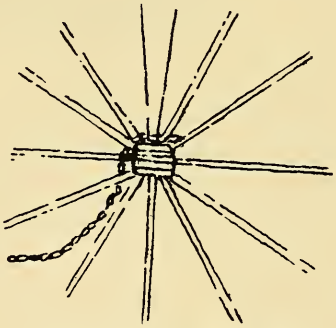


Illustration No. 129

Separate all the wires into groups of two. Then divide one of these groups of two into single wires and start weaving at that point. Keep these two wires single throughout every row, always weaving to the right. Note Illustration No. 129.

Weave over two wires and under two wires for six rows, or as many rows as there are wires each way, cutting out one of the double spokes or wires. Now continue weaving on single spokes or wires until the base is the desired size. Your previous instructions have explained about separating the wires into single wires and weaving on the single wires.

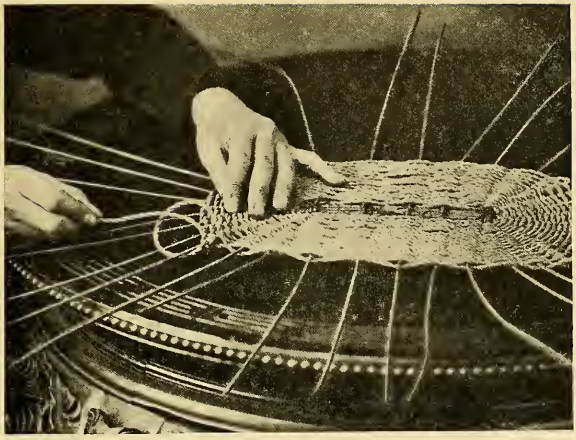


Illustration No. 130

When two rows have been woven on the single wires, cut a piece of cardboard the size of the desired base. Then place the woven base on the cardboard and determine which wires are the corner wires. Now proceed to weave over one wire and under another, and at the corner you loop the rope around the wire to build out the corners. Notice Illustration No. 130.

However, after you have bent the wires up all around the basket and have started to weave the sides of the basket, be sure to remember that the SIDES of the square baskets are woven without looping on the corner wires.

LESSON TEN

MAKING BASE FOR OVAL BASKETS

First wrap eight wires with a strip of Crepe Paper 3/4 inch wide to match the rope used. Lay these wires flat and weave them together with spool wire. Make the section thus fastened about half the length of the desired base. Note Illustration No. 131.

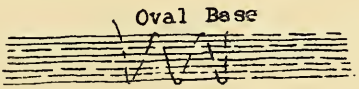



Illustration No. 131

Now attach the cross wires. Attach these cross wires to the back bone with one-sixteenth inch rope. Fasten three wires together at each end of the back bone and then set in single wires about 1/2 inch apart. By backbone we mean that section of your first eight wires which is fastened with the spool wire, as shown in Illustration No. 131.

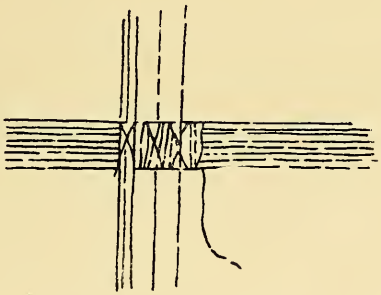


Illustration No. 132

Illustrations Nos. 132 and 133 show the fastening and arrangement of the cross wires. Spread the wires out into a semicircle at each end, dividing them into groups of two wires each, as shown in Illustration No. 134.

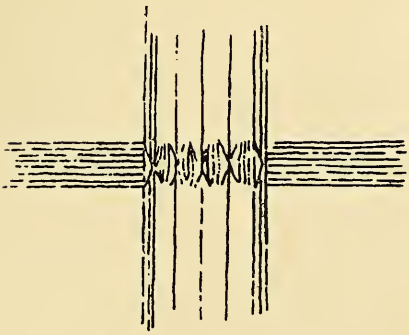


Illustration No. 133

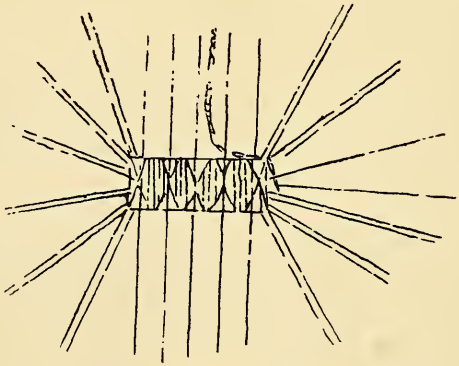


Illustration No. 134

You now separate one of the groups of two wires into single spokes and begin weaving between these two. Illustration No. 134 shows the two wires thus separated and the rope inserted between them ready to begin the weaving.

Keep these two wires single throughout each row and always weave to the right. Weave over two and under two at the ends and over one and under one on the sides, weaving eight rows all to gether.

Then proceed to cut out one wire on the left of the two single spokes, separating all the rest of the wires into single spokes. Then weave over one and under one until the base is the desired size.

BASE FOR OBLONG BASKET

In making the base for an oblong basket you proceed in exactly the same manner as in the case of the oval basket unitl you have woven two rows on single spokes. When you have woven two rows on the single spokes, cut a piece of cardboard the size of the desired base, as in the case of the square basket. Place the woven base on the cardboard and determine the corner wires. Weave over one and under one, and at each corner loop the rope around the wire to build out the corners. The sides of an oblong basket are woven without looping on corner wires.

A FINAL WORD

You have now learned the making of a round basket in complete detail. It may have seemed to you at times that we laid too much stress upon the small points and explained in almost too much detail very simple movements, but, it is our desire to make absolutely certain that you learn correctly the making of this first round basket.

Do not be discouraged if your first effort is not absolutely perfect in shape. It is only natural that the work should require some practice.

You have also been instructed in the making of the base for a square basket; also the base for oval and oblong baskets. The making of the square, oval and oblong baskets is only slightly different from the making of round baskets, as you have already observed.

Be sure to have confidence in yourself and your ability to make these baskets. That is all you will need from now on together with our suggestions. You can originate different shapes and designs and we are in a position to furnish you, at very low cost, crepe paper rope and crepe paper of many different and beautiful colors. Furthermore, you can paint and decorate your finished baskets in many beautiful ways. Baskets, decorated with Ven-Yan are also attractive.

From time to time we shall mail you separate small sheets simply illustrating different styles of baskets you can make and the amount of material necessary.